



Bridging Ages, International Organization in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels

Annual Report 2014

Board

- President: Ebbe Westergren, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden
- Vice President: Annina Ylikoski, Ostrobothnian Children's Culture Network BARK, Finland Secretary: Eugenia Bolognesi, Association Palatina-Istanbul, Rome, Italy, passed away in June 2014
- Jon Hunner, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, USA
- Agrita Ozola, Tukums Museum, Latvia
- Ebru Iltenmis, Manisa Municipality, Turkey
- Tina Lindström, Kalmar läns museum, Sweden
- Jabulani Phelago, Freedom Park, South Africa
- Pille Rohla, Audentes School, Tallinn, Estonia Tallinn University

Office

Kalmar County Museum, Sweden

Committees

Nomination committee: Agrita Ozola, Ebru Iltenmis

Newsletter/ website committee: Helen Eklund, Annina Ylikoski

Conference committee: Ebbe Westergren, Steven Labarakwe for the Kenya conference

Funding committee:

Board meetings

Skype: 22 January, 8 April, 18 June, 9 August, 9 October, 27 November

Board meeting in Ngurunit, Kenya: 29 August

Newsletters

Four Newsletters have been published, each of them eight pages: April, June, October and December

Bridging Ages International Conference in Ngurunit, Kenya 26-29 August 2014

Organizers: Bridging Ages Northern Kenya, Marsabit County Government, Kenyatta University, Linnaeus University, Kalmar läns museum and Bridging Ages International

Theme: Education, Heritage and Community Building, 175 delegates from nine countries. This was first international conference ever in northern Kenya.

25 August, delegates arrive in the village of Ngurunit, Marsabit County

26 August, First session: Heritage, Environment and Community Building, 16 short presentations and group discussions; 27 August, am: Time Travel at a local manyatta with conference delegates and local people, "stay or leave". Pm, second session: Education and

Community Building, Mathematics in the Historic Environment, 15 short presentations and group discussions; 28 August am, third session: Education, Heritage and Conflict Resolution, 6 short presentation and group discussions. Closing by MP Joseph Lekuton. Pm: Big cultural festival with Ngurunit Community, more than 1000 people; 29 August: A day in Ngurunit, visit a manyatta, singing wells, town, natural swimming pool etc
National press and TV followed the conference. Several video clips from the conference on You Tube.

Declaration from the conference:

1. Use local sites, experiences, activities in education in various ways and subjects; this provides a lot of benefits
2. Establish and develop Local Community Heritage Centers as social, knowledge and educational centers.

Conditions: Community ownership, partnership

E-mailing list

About 1000 persons are on the e-mailing list, from 23 countries on 4 continents: Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Iceland, Poland, England, Wales, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Serbia, Turkey, USA, Nicaragua, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, South Africa.

Action Plan 2015-2017

A new action plan for 2015-2017 was discussed and developed in August and adopted by the board in November. The three-year plan is divided into the international part, that consists of how to promote the Time Travel method and how to develop the Bridging Ages organization; and the national parts with participating countries - Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Turkey and South Africa.

Comments

Bridging Ages continues to grow slowly as an organization. The focus of the work has the last years shifted towards more on contemporary issues and the use of heritage today.

In 2014 18000 students and adults (7000 in Sweden, 4500 in South Africa, 4200 in Finland, 50 in Estonia, 1000 in Latvia, 550 in Kenya, 200 in Uganda, 100 in Italy, 200 in Serbia) took part in Time Travel programs all over the world, an increase of two thousand from the year before. From the start in 1985 more than 180 000 persons have taken part in Time Travels. Although the organization is growing there is a need for sustainable Bridging Ages structures in many of the countries.

The International conference in Kenya was a success, very different from any other conference because of the remote area and the traditional lifestyle of the samburus.

15April 2015

The Bridging Ages board

Ebbe Westergren

Reports from participating countries and institutions

Bridging Ages in Latvia

Agrita Ozola

Bridging Ages International organization is represented in Latvia by Tukums museum, which is one of the founders of the organization. Tukums museum has been working on development of closer cooperation with UNESCO National Commission of Latvia and Associated Schools of UNESCO.

2014 was the 25th anniversary of a unique peaceful mass demonstration, the Baltic Way, that took place in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania 23 August 1989. “The Baltic Way – Human Chain Linking Three States in their Drive for Freedom” is included in UNESCO International Memory of the World Register. The Baltic way was a theme presented by Tukums museum representative in the Annual Bridging Ages conference in Kenya 2014.

A most visible action in Latvia was a public Time Travel “A Lesson on Baltic Way” organized under the leadership of UNESCO Latvian National Commission on September 11. The public Time Travel in Tukums town took place in cooperation with all the schools and municipal institutions as well as the Society “Historical memory”. Pupils had a possibility to learn the historical situation in the permanent exhibition in the Tukums City museum of history, meet organizers of the Baltic Way 1989, as well as experience the atmosphere of the Baltic Way, joining hands to create a 2 km long human chain in the streets of the town.

There was an intension to strengthen the capacity of Bridging Ages Latvia developing closer cooperation with a wider range of memory and education institutions and plan for training activities together with museums and networks in Estonia, Lithuania and Finland. Tukums museum has also provided Time Travels to 1905 for schools of the region and other regions of Latvia.

Bridging Ages in Turkey

Ebru Iltenmis

A Time Travel seminar at Celal Bayar university, Manisa, 56 people attended

Bridging Ages in Estonia

Pille Rohtla

1. At the second half of the year 2014 and the beginning of 2015 there has been a massive campaign by Pille Rohtla to introduce the Time Travel method in Estonia: The Conference of the history teachers (about 200 people); Conference for the museum workers in Estonian National Museum in early 2015 in Tartu (about 75 people):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qoWa4HnBUNs>

2. We have produced a film about the Time Travel into the year 1980 and distributed about 70 copies, so it has been quite popular.

3. We have developed and implemented one new Time Travel to the year 1514 in Tallinn – a

welcoming party for the merchant Hans Viant. It was cooperation between Tallinn City Museum and Audentes School (about 50 studentes + the teachers).

4. Kaari Siemer attended Creative Europe project meeting in Kalmar in May and BA international conference in Kenya in August. In Kenya she had a presentation on “Estonians and Russians. How to get these two communities closer”?

At the end of the year Kaari from Tartu City Museum and Saale Randaru from Estonian National Museum started to plan a new Time Travel "Dorpat 1399". It will take place in May 2015 in Tartu.

5. I have got acquainted with many interesting materials that could be developed into Time Travels.

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA

Dr. Jon Hunner

The New Mexico State University Time Travel course is taught every other year so we did not Time Travel at the university in 2014. With Jon as Interim Director at the New Mexico History Museum at the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe, he conducted a Place Based Cinema project at the Palace using Time Travel techniques. The N.M. Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum continues to incorporate living history into their programming through “Ghosts of the Past,” “Cowboy Days,” and in tours to school and adult groups.

Kalmar county museum/ Bridging Ages in Sweden

Ebbe Westergren

Kalmar läns museum is the head office for Bridging Ages International, administration, website, newsletter.

KLM has cooperation with Linnaeus University, Kalmar in many ways. This year a combined post on Applied Heritage, research and practice, was established. The second international on-line course in Historic Environment Education, 15 credits, was held at Linnaeus University in Kalmar.

The Educational Department at the museum made 253 activities with 8192 people across the county: Time Travels, school programs, trainings, regional development and cultural tourism.

75 Time Travels have been organized with 3108 pupils in schools in all the 12 municipalities.

The “Creative School” programs have given new opportunities.

Regional projects, examples:

Science and technology in a gender perspective in education, Västervik municipality; Crime and Punishment at Kalmar Castle; Emigration; Civil Courage; Cultural Geocaching; the Viking Age in Köpingsvik, Öland; Questions of Life and Faith with the Church of Sweden

Kalmar läns museum is leading a regional three-year project on Health and Culture

The Costume Studio has produced a series of new clothing, cleaned and packed thousands of clothes. Also a lot of new props have been produced and handled in the Time Travel programs.

Eketorp, the reconstructed Iron Age and Middle Age fort on southern Öland had about 20 000 visitors from May to early September, quite many school classes and Time Travels in May.

A two-day seminar on Cultural Heritage and Conflict Resolution with 15 organizations in ten different European countries was organized in Kalmar in May.

Kalmar läns museum has been working on international joint projects on the Time Travel method and Applied Heritage in and together with the following countries:

- Finland and USA, New Mexico - Living in two worlds, immigration and integration
- Serbia, Belgrade and Kragujevac – Tolerance issues through local history education, C 31 organization for Children's Rights, Knjazevac museum
- Finland, Poland, Germany, Belgium, Ireland and Iceland - A Place and its Story; Grundtvig Adult Learning Program
- Uganda, Entebbe – Sites and Stories, ICLD/ Sida
- Kenya – Mathematics in the Historic Environment, Linnaeus University. A Linnaeus/Palme Project
- South Africa – Cape Winelands, More Living-Active Age, elderly care and heritage, ICLD/Sida
- South Africa – Training in the Time Travel method of five heritage organizations/ museums in Gauteng/ North West, together with National Department of Arts and Culture
- Also, in Western Cape, Landscape Education, Cape Nature and KwaZulu-Natal, Time Travel trainings and events
- Bridging Ages in Sweden and Finland made a joint presentation on the Time Travel method for EU departments in Brussels in June

There have been 70 different arrangements outside Sweden, including training courses, workshops, presentations, conferences and Time Travels, with in total 3012 persons. Five different groups from abroad have been in the Kalmar region for capacity building and seminars.

Kalmar läns museum has a Memorandum of Understanding with Cape Nature and Bridging Ages Western Cape, South Africa and another MoU with National Museums of Kenya.

The Ostrobothnian Children's Culture Network BARK 2014, Finland

Annina Ylikoski

In 2014 BARK did about 80 Time Travels on 12 themes. The Time Travels were made throughout the region and children from the ages 5-19 took part. About 3200 children and youth participated in BARKs Time Travels and Historic Environment Education programs. Most of the TTs were done as collaboration projects with museums, local heritage associations, libraries and other historic organizations. Some examples of the themes: Emigration, Civil War 1918, The War 1714 and Life in 1956. BARK also did public Time Travels, with about 300 people participants.

BARK collaborated with Åbo Akademi University and University of Applied Sciences in Vasa and Jakobstad. The co-operation included education, music, drama and history disciplines. With the University of Applied Sciences, the collaboration was with drama education students, who did a Theater in Education-performance with a historical theme and discussed how history and cultural heritage can be used in education. The performances had topics about identity and choices. About 600 8th graders saw the performances.

The international collaboration was lively through many projects. The EU-project “Living in two worlds” highlighted the question about migration then and now. This project were done in collaboration with Sweden. Schools and local heritage associations in both countries took part and gathered to a seminar in Vasa in February. BARK was also part of the European Grundtvig-project “A place and its Story” with 6 other European countries and hosted a meeting for this in September. In August, BARK took part in the International Bridging Ages conference in Kenya.

Some other countries doing Time Travels in 2014 within the Bridging Ages organization:

South Africa (Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Gauteng), Italy, Serbia, Kenya, Uganda